product especially mangoes in overseas markets. Research efforts are on for the use of modern technologies such as Controlled/ Modified Atmoshphere technologies in transportation for increasing the shelf-life of perishable products;

(iv) Setting up of integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilties at various International Airports for handling export of perishable items such as fresh fruits and vegetables;

The above measures have greatly helped the growers/exporters In the export of horticultural items and increasing exports of these items.

(d) and (e) The Government has set up integrated cold storage and cargo handling facilities for perishables at the Indira Gandhi International Airport at Delhi and the Bangalore Airport. The Government has also set up walk-in-type of cold storages at the Calcutta, Chennai, Guwahati, Mumbai and Thiruvananthapuram Airports for handling perishable export cargo. Projects for setting up of bigger cold storage facilities at Chennai, Thiruvananthapuram and Hyderabad Airports are under implementation. These are expected to be operational by early next year.

(f) Does not arise.

Import of Poppy Seeds

24. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently decided to import poppy seeds; if so, the details/background thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have brushed aside the reservations of Revenue Department for import, as reported in the Hindustan Times, dated 13th October, 1998;

(c) if so, what objections Government have received from the Revenue Department;

(d) the detailed conditions for such import; and

(e) the names of the countries from were poppy seeds are to be imported?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (d) Government have permitted import of Poppy seeds against Special Import Licence. The importer shall have to produce a certificiate from the competent authority of the country of origin to the effect that opium poppy have been grown licitly/legally in that country as per requirements of International Narcotics Control Bureau. Import from other countries is prohibited.

(b) and (c) It is not correct to say that Department of Revenue has any reservations on this issue.

(e) Import has been permitted only from the following countries:—

(a) Australia (b) France (c) Turkey (d) Spain (e) Czech (f) Hungary (g) Poland (h) Romania (i) Slovakia and (j) Austria where opium poppy is grown legally.

IIFT Study on Industrial Development in North-East

25. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any executive summary has been prepared on the basis of a study conducted by Indian institute of Foreign Trade on Industrial Development and Export Potential of North-East Region;

(b) if so, the salient feature of the study and the action taken thereon;

(c) whether particular schemes for industrial development and export potential has been suggested for Assam; and

(d) if so, the details and status of its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, Following are the salient features of the executive summary of the study of Indian Institute of Foreign Trade's on Industrial development and Export Potential of North-East region:—

1. For enhancement of Indo-Myanmar trade, the study recommends increase in basket of exchangeable goods, liberalisation of bilateral trade, reveiw of export first import later policy, Installation of currency chest, strengthening of infrastructure.

2. In order to enhance Indo-Bangladesh trade, there is a need for diversifying the commodity pattern by setting up industries in and around border areas with prouction and marketing tie-ups with Bangladesh entrepreneures. Some of the Items suggested are cement, fruit processing, dehydrated ginger and ginger products, rubber goods, bamboo and cane items. The Items suggested for Import are fish, poultry products, milk and milk products, Jute, handloom items.

3. For promoting border trade with Bangladesh India, may designate Tladung (Demagri) and Marpara at the border trade routes with Mizoram. The commmodity recommended for border trade are ginger, chillis, sisame seeds, fruits, raw cotton, cane, fish, poultry.

4. it is imperative to open up two more trading centres at Pungro and pokhungri as focal points for mineral related trade.

5. The services of Federation of Industries of North East Region (FINER) may be utilised for establishment of a "Trade Development Authority" for NE region to chart out a programme of action for border trade and trade related matters with Bangladesh and Mynamar. Till the establishment of this organisation and export development wing may be created under North Eastern Council (NEC).

6. An Institute like Indian Institute of Foreign Trade or its branch may be set up in NE region.

7. Special Import Licence at enhanced percentage when compared with Domestic Tariff Area exporters may be given to exporters from the NE region.

8. The entire North East Region may be declared as an EPZ.

9. Certain transport route may be designated as exports corridors for creating additional suport facilities. Sectors identified for prioritisation under transport policy would include Imphal-Morh-Tamu, Aizwal Champai-Rih, Kohima-Lunguva-Laishi Sectors and entire Brahmputra Riverine Routes.

10. Private Sector participation in tauling over water-ways or turminus or handling equipments on BOT basis should be emphasised. Private operators may be permitted to charge toll fees.

11. Extension of ship building subsidy to inland water ways transport may be considered.

12. Ministries should reserve 5% of cargo on those route where inland waterways is available.

13. For attracting private investors both domestic and foreign, attractive policies need to be formulated as compared to the policies prevallient in main land. State Govts. should encourage private enterprise for strengthening infrastructure and production by offering attractive incentives and facilities. There is a need for uniefed marketing organisation preperably for items to be identified in the private sector.

14. For promotion of exports of handloom, there is a need to develop or entrust marketing function to a dynamic private organisation. States should develop a mechanism for supply of yarn to the weavers and raw materials to the artisans. There is a need to establish pilot projects. Assistance of National Institute of Fashion Technology may be sought for the purpose.

15. Trifed and Nafed should obtain atleast 10 per cent of their supplies from NE region.

16. For production and export of items like minerals, medicinal plants and herbs the concerned organisations should be provided necessary financial and other resources.

17. Entry barriers prevalent in some states of NE region sould be despensed with.

18. Organisations like Federation of Indian Export Organisations, Confederation of Indian Industries etc. should supplement the efforts of Central and State Govts. for industrial development of NE Region.

19. Joint ventures with buy back arrangements may be set up in selected industries like oil seeds processing, leather tanning, silk weaving, vegetable processing etc..

20. The NE Region needs to be promoted as tourist region.

21. Various rules need to be amended for coal mining industries. Infrastructure need to

be strengthen for transportation of coal.

22. Government of Tripura and Rubber Board may draw plans for cultivation of rubber on large scale.

23. APEDA in collaboration with G/O Arunachal Pradesh and NEC may establish Orchid Auction Centre in Itanagar. It is also necessary to set up cold storage facilities and to seek private participation in orchid cultivation.

The recommendations of the study has been circulated to all concerned for obtaining their comments/views in order to finalise the same.

(c) The recommendations of the study relates to the North East region as a whole.

(d) The Question does not arise in view of the (c) above.

राजस्थान से संगमरमर का निर्यात

26. **श्री ओंकार सिंह लखावत:** क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या राजस्थान के संगमरमर पत्थर के निर्यात की मांग बढ़ रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में गत तीन वर्षों का ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) सरकार द्वारा संगमरमर के निर्यात को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए क्या योजना तैयार की जा रही है तथा क्या प्रोत्साहन दिए जा रहा है ?

वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री रामकृष्ण हेगड़े): (क) और (ख) जी, हां। पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान किए गए संगमरमर के निर्यातों के ब्यौरे निम्नानुसार हैं:-

(मूल्य मिलियन रुपए में)

1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
826.4	1035.5	1200.0

(अनुमानित)

(स्त्रोत: वेपक्सिल)

संगमरमर उत्पादों के कुल निर्यात का लगभग 95% निर्यात राजस्थान से होता है।

(ग) वाणिज्य मंत्रालय ने विशेषत: संगमरमर के लिए कोई भी प्रोत्साहन योजना तैयार नहीं की है। यद्यपि, विभिन्न नीतियों एवं क्रियाविधियों पर समय-समय पर समीक्षा की जाती है ताकि अवरोधों को, अगर कोई है, दूर किया जा सकें।

Discontentment amongst employees of FIEO

27. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the discontentment amongst the employees of the Federation of Indian Export Organisation (FIEO) for denying revised pay scales and allowances adopted by Government which are mandatory in the service rules of the FIEO and these rules also prescribe the retirement age at 58 years; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in the interest of export promotion as four Government officers are serving on the Managing Committee of this apex export organisation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) The Government have received a representation from the FIEO Officers and Staff Association and FIEO Employees Union regarding Pay revision.

(b) FIEO have been asked to examine the issues raised in the memorandum of the FIEO Officers and Staff Association and FIEO Employees Union.

प्याज व आलू की कीमतों में वृद्धि होना

28. **श्री राघवजी:** क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) वर्ष 1998 के प्रत्येक माह में अब तक आलू व प्याज की कितनी-कितनी मात्रा का आयात व निर्यात किया गया है;

(ख) क्या सरकार को इनका निर्यात करते समय इस बात का पूर्वानुमान नहीं था कि आलू व प्याज की कीमतें बढ़ सकती हैं;

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(घ) निकट भविष्य में आलू-प्याज के आयात-निर्यात संबंधी नीति क्या है?

वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री रामकृष्ण हेगड़े): (क) 1998 के दौरान निर्यातित आलू और प्याज की मात्रा (मी.टन में) इस प्रकार है:

अक्तूबर नवम्बर, 1998 के दौरान आयात मुक्त करने के बाद सीमा-शुल्क प्राधिकारियों के पास उपलब्ध आंकड़ों के अनुसार 559 मी.टन प्याज आयातित किए गए हैं।